

14
12

REPORT, RESOLUTIONS,
AND
REMONSTRANCE,
OF THE
HONOURABLE THE
Council and Assembly of *Jamaica*,
AT A JOINT COMMITTEE,
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE
SLAVE-TRADE,

816. R. 5.
Council of

In a Session which began the 20th of OCTOBER, 1789.

[Price 1 s.]

REPORT RESOLUTIONS

REMONSTRANCE

OF THE

HONOURABLE THE

Council and Assembly of Jamaica

AT A JOINT COMMITTEE

ON THE EFFECT OF THE

SLAVE TRADE

IN A PETITION WHICH BARE THE SIGNATURE OF

REPORT, RESOLUTIONS,
AND
REMONSTRANCE,
OF THE
HONOURABLE THE
Council and Assembly of *Jamaica*,
AT A JOINT COMMITTEE,
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE
SLAVE - TRADE,

In a Session which began the 20th of OCTOBER 1789.

*Published, and presented to the Members of both Houses of Parliament,
in pursuance of an Order of the Assembly,*

BY

STEPHEN FULLER, ESQ.
AGENT FOR JAMAICA.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR B. WHITE AND SON, FLEET-STREET;
J. SEWELL, CORNHILL; R. FAULDER, NEW BOND-STREET;
AND J. DEBRETT AND J. STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

M. DCC. XC.

REPORT, RESOLUTIONS
AND

REMONSTRANCE

OF THE

HONORABLE THE

Council and Assembly of Jamaica,

AT A JOINT COMMITTEE

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

SLAVE-TRADE.

In a Session which began the 20th of October 1825.

Printed and published by the Members of the House of Assembly,
in pursuance of an Order of the Assembly.

BY

STEPHEN RUDLER, Esq.
AGENT FOR JAMAICA.

LONDON.

PRINTED FOR R. WHITTAKER, Esq.,
J. NEWELL, CORNHILL, NEW LONDON,
AND J. BARNETT AND J. STODOLSKY, BROADWAY.

M.DCCC.XXV.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

THURSDAY the 10th Day of *December*, 1789.

ORDERED,

THAT the Committee of Correspondence do transmit to the Agent by the next Pacquet, the Report made by the Chairman of the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council in a Free Conference, to enquire into, and to report their Opinion what Steps are necessary to be taken with regard to the Slave-Trade, in consequence of the Information received from the Agent of this Island, of the Proceedings had in the House of Commons during the last Session of Parliament, in respect of the said Trade; together with the Resolutions annexed, as also the above Resolutions and Remonstrance: And that he be directed to cause the same to be printed, and Copies thereof sent to each Member of both Houses of Parliament individually; and that he do likewise publish the said Resolutions throughout the Kingdom.

(True Extract)

GEO. FRENCH,

Clerk to the Assembly.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDERED

1945-46

J A M A I C A

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

J O V I S, 3^o *die Decembris*, 1789.

MR. MURRAY reported as follows:

MR. SPEAKER,

Your Committee, appointed to meet a Committee of the Council in a Free Conference, to enquire into, and to report to the House their opinion, what steps are necessary to be taken with regard to the Slave-Trade, in consequence of the information received from the Agent of this Island, the proceedings had in the House of Commons during the last Session of Parliament, in respect to the said Trade; have accordingly met, and have taken the Examinations of several Persons, and have agreed to the following Resolutions.

I.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That the suppression, either direct or virtual, of the Slave Trade, by the British nation only (other nations continuing the trade as usual) would not promote the purposes of humanity, either in respect of the Negroes which are annually brought to the African markets for sale, or in regard to the Negroes at present in a state of slavery in this and the rest of the British Islands in the West Indies. The effect in Africa of a partial abolition, would be this, that the purchasers from Europe being fewer in number, would have a greater choice of Slaves, equal to the whole demand of the British merchants at present, which is stated at 38,000 annually; whereby prime Slaves only would be saleable, and the aged and infirm (many of whom are now purchased of necessity) being rejected in greater numbers than formerly, the horrid practice, which has long existed among the Slave Merchants on the Coast, of putting to death such of their captives as are brought to market and rejected by the Europeans, would be more prevalent than

x.

ever.

ever. In the British West Indies, the effect (however lightly felt at first) must necessarily, in the course of a few years, from an unavoidable decrease, consequent on the present inequality of the sexes, have this operation, that the labour which is now performed by a given number of Negroes, must either be performed by a less number, or the Planter must contract the limits of his plantation, and diminish his produce. Thus, immediate interest, and in many cases urgent distress from the importunity of creditors, will be set in opposition to the principles of justice and the dictates of humanity.

II.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That to condemn the Slave-Trade, as peculiarly destructive to British Seamen (the contrary whereof is proved by the evidence of Vice Admiral Edwards, before the Privy Council) and to adduce in proof thereof, the losses sustained on certain unhealthy parts of the Coast, without taking into the account the losses sustained in other branches of the African commerce; such as the wood and ivory trades, where the mortality principally occurs, and the increase of seamen from such other parts of the British navigation as are principally dependant on the African commerce; is partial and unjust. Among these branches may be reckoned the West India and Lumber Trades; and above all, those great nurseries for seamen, the Irish, British, British-American, and Newfoundland Fisheries, the consumption of herrings and salted fish by the Negroes being immense. We have likewise reason to believe, that since the late regulating act, the mortality of British seamen in the Slave-Trade has decreased nearly one half.

III.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That the loss of Negroes, which is sometimes sustained in the voyages from Africa, as well as in the harbours of this island between the days of arrival and sale, and which is stated to happen from the mode of transporting them from the Coast, being a remediable grievance, affords no argument for a total suppression of the Slave-Trade.

IV.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That no just estimate can be formed of the effects which the regulating act of the British Parliament, passed in 1788, will ultimately produce in respect of the loss of Slaves in the middle passage; inasmuch as it appears from a return of Negroes, purchased on the Coast of Africa
by

by ships that have entered in the port of Kingston since the first of January last, that out of 2,099 Slaves, purchased on the Gold Coast, 2,042 have been sold in this Island, a loss of only two and three fourths per cent.; but that out of 2,550 Slaves purchased in the Bite of Benin, only 1,642 have been sold; a loss amounting to thirty-five and three-eighths per cent, and unknown before any regulation took place. Two vessels have since arrived from the same Coast, the Ann and the Vulture: these vessels purchased 785 Slaves, of whom only 14 have died; a loss not exceeding one and three-sevenths per cent. This amazing difference, as appears by the evidence taken on oath, is partly to be attributed to the small-pox, which raged in some of the ships, and the measles and flux which broke out in others. The loss by the flux was chiefly occasioned by the use of unripe yams, for want of other provisions.

V.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That the number of Slaves at present in this Island is about 250,000; of which, according to the best enquiries that can be made concerning the proportion of the sexes, there are 140,000 males and 110,000 females. It follows, therefore, that if future importations from Africa be discontinued, there will unavoidably ensue, from the disproportion of the sexes alone, a very great reduction from the present number of our Slaves, before any augmentation can be expected from natural increase by generation: a diminution which must not only preclude all attempts at the further improvement of our unsettled lands, but likewise occasion a proportionable decrease in the present cultivation; it being an undoubted fact, that almost all the plantations already settled are much under-handed.

VI.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That it is absolutely impossible to cultivate the West India Islands, so as to produce any commodities that would enrich the Mother Country, by White labourers. Fatal experience demonstrates the fallacy of such an expectation. In the year 1749, the legislature of this Island passed a law, holding out great encouragement for the introduction of White families into this Colony; which proved ineffectual, very few families having come in consequence thereof; and of those that came, not a vestige is left. The French Ministry, in 1763, attempted to settle a colony, by means of White labourers, at Cayenne, on the coast of America: twelve thousand miserable people were the victims of this impolitic
B scheme,

scheme. If further instances are wanting, to prove that Europeans cannot withstand the climate when exposed to the sun and the rains, recourse may be had to the accounts of the siege of Carthage; the expedition to Cumberland Harbour; the siege of the Havanna; the returns of the regiments that came out under the command of General Garth in 1779 and 1780; and the expedition to Fort Saint Juan on the Spanish Main.

VII.

RESOLVED, It is opinion of the Joint Committee, That, according to the best estimate which can be formed, this Island may be stated to contain four millions and eighty thousand acres of land, of which not more than one fourth part, or about one million of acres, is at present in actual cultivation; and although a considerable part of the country, consisting of high mountains and rugged precipices, is incapable of improvement, yet it may be presumed, that no part of the lands, which are actually patented, falls within that description; inasmuch as the owners thereof pay a quit-rent to the Crown for holding the same; which quit-rent, and the arrears thereof collected since Christmas last, amount to the sum of £. 27,000 or thereabouts, exclusive of £. 13,000 now in a train of settlement.

VIII.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That it appears from the offices of the Clerk of the Patents and Receiver-General, that there are at this time patented in this Island, or taken up by grants from the Crown, 1,907,589 acres of land; from which the quantity in actual cultivation being deducted, there will remain, with every allowance for unproductive territory, 900,000 acres of cultivatable land yet unsettled; the whole of which, if the Slave-Trade be abolished, must become an absolute burthen and incumbrance on its present proprietors, who will in such case be entitled as of right, and on the principles of natural justice, to the liberty of surrendering the same back to the Crown, and receiving full compensation for the capitals therein vested, and all quit-rents paid on account thereof. The said land, valued only at £. 3 currency per acre, is worth £. 2,700,000 currency, equal to £. 1,928,500 sterling.

IX.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That the Planters and Proprietors of Negroes in this Island will in like manner be entitled to compensation for the diminution which must necessarily ensue in the number of our Slaves, should all further importations

tations be discontinued by authority of Parliament; the present disproportion between the sexes having arisen from causes which are not imputable to us. With the reduction of our Slaves will likewise, unavoidably, happen a proportionate decrease in the value of our lands, buildings, and produce: for which, and all other losses consequent on a change in the present system, it is the opinion of the Joint Committee, that the inhabitants of this, and the rest of His Majesty's Sugar Colonies, are fairly and justly entitled to compensation; the said Colonies having been originally settled under the most sacred compacts with the Mother Country, sanctioned by royal charters and proclamations, as well as by a succession of acts of Parliament, authorizing and encouraging the Slave-Trade; particularly by the charters granted in 1662 and 1674 by King Charles II. which established a Royal African Company, the last of which was granted in consequence of an address from both houses of Parliament; and by the acts of the 9th and 10th of William III. a period when the principles of civil liberty were minutely investigated, well understood, and freely asserted; and, more recently, by the act of the 23d of George II. which recites the usefulness and absolute necessity of the African Trade. Our claim of compensation is founded in, and supported by, not only the rules of natural as well as moral justice, but by the expectations we are warranted to entertain from the examples of compensation made by Parliament to the Royal African Company, for the resumption of their lands, forts, &c. &c. (see stat. 25 Geo. II. c. 40) in 1752, and to the British merchants and owners of ships engaged in the African Trade, for losses sustained by them, in consequence of the act for regulating the shipping and carrying Slaves in British vessels from the Coast of Africa, passed the last session of the British Parliament: And it is our opinion, that before any further measures towards the abolition of the Slave Trade be taken by the Parliament of Great Britain, Commissioners ought to be appointed for ascertaining the losses to arise therefrom.

X.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That the charges which have been brought against the Planters of this Island, of improper and inhuman treatment of our Slaves, may be fully refuted and disproved; first, by an appeal to our laws; and secondly, by the evidence of respectable men who have resided among us, and have been witnesses to our manners. Whatever may be said of our ancient Colonial Slave Laws, the acts which have been passed within the last ten years, are written in characters of justice, mercy,

and liberality. Concerning the general treatment of our Slaves, we refer to the evidence already personally given to the Lords of the Council, by the Right Honourable Lord Rodney, Sir Peter Parker, Admiral Barrington, Sir Joshua Rowley, Admiral Hotham, Vice Admiral Edwards, and Sir George Young; and to the further evidence that may be produced from gentlemen of character in England, who have resided many years in this Island, and are intimately acquainted with our conduct and manners. We conceive that the testimony of such persons is unanswerable and conclusive, and shall therefore only remark, that it is notorious our Slaves in general are not only treated with kindness and humanity, but that they are also protected by law from immoderate chastisement or cruel treatment, and enjoy more easy, comfortable, and happy lives, than multitudes of the labourers in Great Britain.

XI.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That in confidence of the validity of Plantation security, and the support and encouragement the Sugar Colonies and the African Trade have hitherto experienced from Government, the merchants in Great Britain have been induced to enter into very large advances, and engage in extensive loans to the West India Planters; and on the faith of an act of parliament, passed on purpose to make the receiving of six per cent. on colonial securities lawful in Great Britain, great numbers of private persons at home, as well as the subjects of foreign states, have likewise embarked considerable sums on mortgages, and have purchased annuities to a very large amount on West India estates. Now, the Slave-Trade being the great source of every West India improvement, its abolition must inevitably diminish the value of all such securities, and drive the creditors to use every means in their power to extricate their property from such a precarious situation, to the immediate distress of the Planters and their families, and the ultimate ruin of many of the mortgagees and annuitants themselves.

XII.

RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That the present value of property in this Island may be fairly and reasonably estimated as follows; viz. 250,000 Negroes at £.50 sterling per head, is £.12,500,000: the patented lands, with their erections, and the personal property appertaining thereunto, at double the value of the Negroes (being the best general rule of valuation) amount to

§

£. 25,000,000:

£.25,000,000: and the article of houses in the towns, the coasting and trading vessels, &c. may be estimated at one million and a half at the least; it appearing by the report of the committee of the Lords of the Privy Council, that the houses in Kingston and Spanish Town are alone worth £.1,428,521 sterling. The total is, thirty-nine millions of pounds sterling. The whole profits and produce of which capital, as also of the various branches of commerce to which it gives rise, center in Great Britain, and add to the national wealth; while the navigation, necessary to all its branches, establishes a strength which wealth can neither purchase nor balance.



No. 1.

The Examination of JOHN TAYLOR, of the Parish of Kingston, Esquire; taken before the Joint Committee on the Slave-Trade, in the most solemn Manner, this 1st Day of December 1789.

Question 1st. PLEASE to inform the Joint Committee, whether a ship named the Eliza, Captain Bullock, came consigned to you from Africa? with what number of Slaves? and from what part of the Coast?

Answer. The Eliza arrived to my address from New Calabar, in the Bite of Benin: 283 Slaves were purchased, and put on board that vessel on the Coast; 210 were brought to this Island in the vessel, of which I sold 180.

Question 2d. Can you assign the causes of such mortality?

Answer. I believe the small-pox of a malignant kind was the cause of the great mortality. From the ship's journal it appears, that, soon after leaving the Coast, it was discovered some of the Slaves were infected with that disorder, and it continued to rage amongst them during the whole of the Middle Passage. On the arrival of the ship, I immediately ordered such of the Slaves as did not appear to have caught the infection to be inoculated: 30 Slaves died afterwards; part of whom had the disorder in the natural way, and part were of those that had been inoculated. The whole loss was 103 Slaves.

Question 3d. Was there a surgeon on board during the voyage? and did the Slaves want provisions or other necessaries, particularly medicines?

Answer. There was a surgeon on board during the voyage, and I employed an assistant to him immediately on the ship's arrival. The Slaves had provisions and water in great abundance, and I did not hear they were in want of necessaries of any kind. After the Slaves were disposed of, more than a sufficient quantity of provisions for the voyage to England

England were left on board the ship; and I sold a quantity of both beef and bread in Kingston.

Question 4th. Did the surgeon inoculate any of the Slaves on board, before the ship's arrival?

Answer. He did not.

(Signed)

JOHN TAYLOR.

No. 2.

The Examination of ALEXANDRE LINDO, of the Parish of Kingston, Esquire; taken, in the most solemn Manner, before the Joint Committee on the Slave-Trade, this 1st Day of December 1789.

Question 1st. PLEASE to inform the Joint Committee, whether a ship named the King Pepple did not come consigned to you from Bonny?

Answer. The ship King Pepple came consigned to me from the Bite of Benin.

Question 2d. Please to say, whether a great mortality did not happen amongst the Slaves in that ship during her passage, and to what cause was it owing?

Answer. The mortality was very great. I think the loss in the Middle Passage was about 150, and 20 or thereabouts died after the ship's arrival. The cause of the mortality was an epidemic flux, principally occasioned, as I have been informed, and believe, by the ship's taking on board on the Coast a large quantity of unripe yams, the time of her sailing not being the yam season, and the Captain could not therefore get better.

(Signed)

ALEXANDRE LINDO.

No.

No. 3.

The Examination of Captain WILLIAM SHERWOOD;
taken in the Joint Committee on the Slave-
Trade, in the most solemn Manner, this 1st
Day of December 1789.

Question 1st. WHAT ship do you command, of what tonnage, and how many Slaves are you allowed to carry by the late Regulating Act?

Answer. I command the ship Brothers of Liverpool, of 325 Tons; and am allowed by the Regulating Act to carry 459 Slaves, but took in only 455.

Question 2d. What part of the Coast did you sail from last, and how long was you there in getting your cargo?

Answer. I sailed from Liverpool the 24th of June last, and arrived at Bonny, in the Bite of Benin, on the 2d of August; from thence I sailed the 20th of September, and arrived at Kingston on the 10th of November last, after a fine passage of 50 days.

Question 3d. In what state of health were the Slaves when you purchased them?

Answer. Apparently healthy, but some of them a little emaciated, which I imputed to their having been brought from a vast distance inland, in the rainy season.

Question 4th. What was the mortality on board?

Answer. I lost sixty-three in the middle passage.

Question 5th. Had you ever such mortality in any former voyage, and how many voyages have you been as master?

Answer. Never in the same proportion—I have been ten voyages as master.

Question 6th. Can you assign the causes of the mortality in your present voyage?

Answer. About eight or ten days after we left Bonny, the measles broke out, and carried off from fifty-five to sixty of the Slaves; one died of apoplexy, and the rest of fevers.

Question 7th. How many Slaves did you lose between the days of arrival and sale?

Answer. I lost five—they had had the measles before my arrival, and died of fluxes in consequence thereof; though I had them landed immediately on their arrival, and all possible care taken of them.

Question 8th. Are you of opinion that the measles and flux were the sole causes of this great mortality?

Answer. I am firmly of opinion, if the contagious distemper had not happened, that I should have brought the Slaves with as little loss as is sustained by ships in general coming from that part of Africa.

Question 9th. Had you any Surgeons on board?

Answer. I had two on board.

Question 10th. How many of the seamen died?

Answer. I had forty-two, and none of them died.

Question 11th. What quantity of provisions had you on board when you sailed from Liverpool, and of what quality, and what provisions did you purchase on the Coast?

Answer. I had, as nearly as I can recollect, fourteen tons of biscuit, forty tons and thirty barrels of beef, six barrels of pork, four tons of shelled beans, and three tons of flour, when I left Liverpool, all of good quality. I purchased while on the Coast, from sixteen to seventeen thousand good sound yams, each weighing upon an average about seven pounds, from eight to ten thousand plantains, and about five or six thousand heads of Indian corn. On my arrival I had left about seven tons of biscuit, three thousand eight hundred yams, and about a ton and a half of beans, eleven tierces and seven barrels of beef, a ton and a half of flour, and twelve butts of water of a hundred and eighty gallons each.

Question

Question 12th. Were the Seamen and Slaves continued at the usual full allowance of provisions and water during the whole voyage?

Answer. They were.

Question 13th. Is not the construction and the conveniencies on board a Slave Ship of more consequence to the health of the Negroes than confining the number of Slaves to a certain tonnage?

Answer. I think the construction more material than the tonnage; in a long narrow ship the air circulates more freely:—a short quarter deck, no top gallant forecastle, no gangway, and a very low waist, are circumstances of greater advantage than a mere extension of tonnage.

Question 14th. Do you remember any instance of the small-pox taking place on board any vessel under your command, during any passage from the Coast of Africa?

Answer. I went out in 1777, in the Joshua, a brig belonging to Liverpool, for 120 Slaves, and took in 184 at the Isle de Los, on the Windward Coast: when I had got about 100 on board, I perceived one with the small pox, which I immediately put on shore, hoping to stop the infection, but about a fortnight after on my going to sea, I found it had broke out again.

Question 15th. Did you cause the Slaves to be inoculated at sea, and how long after the first appearance of the disorder?

Answer. I caused them to be inoculated immediately on its appearance, and all of them except two took the infection.

Question 16th. What success attended such inoculation?

Answer. I lost seven only out of the 184.

Question 17th. Is the loss of Seamen on board a Slave Ship greater in proportion than that of Landsmen; and would not the seasoning of Landsmen in the West Indies be as fatal to them as on the Coast of Africa?

Answer. The greatest loss is of Landsmen—in some parts of the West Indies I think the loss of men equal to any loss I ever sustained on the Coast of Africa.

Questions

Question 18th. Please to say whether from your own experience and the information of others, the late Regulating Act has in your opinion been of advantage?

Answer. In some ships I think it has, and in others not.

(Signed)

W. SHERWOOD.

RESOLVED, That the House do agree to the Report.



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

J O V I S, 10 *die Decembris*, 1789.

MR. MURRAY reported as follows :

Mr. SPEAKER,

Your Committee appointed to meet a Committee of the Council in a Free Conference on the subject of the Slave-Trade, to consider what further measures may be most expedient to be taken in consequence of the resolutions of the Joint Committee of the Council and Assembly, already agreed to ; have accordingly met, and have agreed to the following Resolutions and Remonstrance to both Houses of Parliament :

1st. THAT it is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That the twelve resolutions already voted by the Council and Assembly of this Island, on the subject of the Slave-Trade, ought to be added to, and engrafted on, a short, temperate, yet spirited Remonstrance to the two Houses of the Parliament of Great Britain, declaratory of the rights of the West India Colonies, protesting against any innovation in those rights, and claiming that protection to which they are entitled by the most sacred engagements on the part of the Parent Country.

2d. THAT it is the opinion of the Joint Committee, That a Remonstrance in the following form and words (and which they conceive it their duty to recommend to the respective branches of the legislature of this Island) be forthwith forwarded, together with the twelve Resolutions it refers to, to the Speakers of the Houses of Lords and Commons respectively, to be laid, with all due respect, before both Houses of Parliament.

To the Honourable the House of Commons of Great Britain

REMONSTRANCE of His Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Council and Assembly of *Jamaica*, on Behalf of themselves, and all Persons interested in the Trade or Cultivation of the West India Islands.

IT is with surprize, equalled only by our affliction, we learn that certain innovations are projected in Parliament, which not only threaten injury to all property throughout the British West Indies, but, in the case of many individuals, strike altogether at its existence.

Twelve propositions appear to have been offered to the House of Commons in their last session, which were avowed by His Majesty's confidential Minister as introductory to an entire abolition of the African Slave-Trade. The resolutions hereunto annexed, which we have thought it necessary to adopt at this important conjuncture, may demonstrate to the Parliament of Great Britain, that the said propositions are founded on imperfect information and prejudice, or on alledged grievances, which (if admitted) are remediable without so violent, so impolitic a sacrifice.

The British nation is pledged for security to her Colonies, by most explicit and sacred public acts, repeatedly held forth to invite settlers to these islands; in proof whereof we refer to the charters granted by King Charles II. in 1662 and 1674, in consequence of an address from Parliament for establishing a Royal African Company, and also to statutes of the 9th and 10th of King William, and to the preamble of an act passed in the 23d year of his late majesty King George II. for extending and improving the trade to Africa.

On the faith of such solemn engagements on the part of Great Britain, her Colonists embarked their fortunes, and adventured, with persevering

vering industry, on speculative and perilous pursuits; where the weight of every miscarriage has fallen on themselves, while their general successes have poured wealth into the lap of the Mother Country.

An abolition of the Slave-Trade of Great Britain cannot but prove fatal to her colonial interests: and this blow is meditated when, after having struggled for several successive years with most calamitous visitations of Providence, a dawn of hope just opens upon us, of fulfilling all our pecuniary engagements with Great Britain, and gathering the fruits of our toil.

The national opinion opposed the East India bill offered in 1784 by the ministers of the Crown then in power, because the people at large considered it as infringing the rights of a respectable body of His Majesty's loyal subjects.

The rights of the British Colonists are as inviolable as those of their fellow-citizens within any part of the British dominions: they are interwoven with the fundamental constitutions of the empire, and which constitutions do not give omnipotence to a British parliament. The authority of a British Parliament is not competent to destroy, nor partially to mutilate private properties. We apprehend, such a violation of the property of any subject of the British realm (not under legal forfeiture) without *our** consent, or without full compensation, would be an unconstitutional assumption of power, subversive of all public faith and confidence as applied to the Colonists; and must ultimately tend to alienate their affections from the Parent State.

* So in the Original.

THEREFORE, the British Colonies of the West Indies now claim that protection which the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain have voluntarily guaranteed, and to which they remain entitled by their loyalty and allegiance.

RESOLVED, That the House do agree to the Report.

(True Copy).

GEO. FRENCH,

Clerk to the Assembly.





